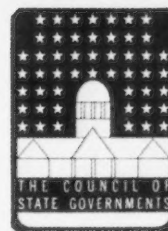


STATE GOVERNMENT NEWS

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Vol. 3

August, 1960

No. 8

LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS

Hawaii Special Session -- Governor William F. Quinn of Hawaii has signed the last of twelve bills passed by a special session of the legislature. The session was called to provide relief and reconstruction for the Hilo area, which bore the brunt of the tidal wave of May 23, generated by severe earthquakes in Chile.

This was the fourth meeting of the legislature since Hawaii became a state in August, 1959. It lasted seventeen working days and adjourned July 1.

The legislature authorized the County of Hawaii to go forward with an urban redevelopment project in the devastated area and provided for the floating of a \$2.5 million bond issue to finance the redevelopment. An additional \$500,000 was made available to build public housing in Hilo for displaced persons. Provision was made for use of land development funds to improve public lands and to lease them by negotiation, with opportunity for eventual purchase to operators of businesses and property owners dislocated by the disaster. A \$600,000 fund was created to furnish relief for small businessmen and a \$300,000 disaster fund was set up to extend unemployment compensation for an additional thirteen weeks to workers made jobless by the tidal wave.

To provide better protection against a recurrence of the Hilo disaster, an appropriation of \$254,000 was made to the Civil Defense System for improved warning equipment, and \$60,000 was provided to initiate a research program under the direction of the Geophysics Institute of the University of Hawaii to uncover better information on how to evaluate a coming tidal wave.

In other action the legislature earmarked \$117,000 to rebuild the Waiakea Intermediate School in Hilo; allowed charity foundations to suspend lease provisions

in the disaster area; and amended the Farm Loan Act to permit the reconstruction program to go forward more quickly by allowing the act to become operative without passage of special rules and regulations.

Puerto Rico -- the 1960 annual session of the Puerto Rico legislature recently ended its longest session since 1925 when the legislature met biennially. The session, which convened on January 11, adjourned June 25.

The legislature approved an operating budget of \$201.1 million, of which \$83 million is for education and \$35.2 million for public health. The salary of legislators was raised from \$3,000 to \$5,400 a year, in addition to per diem, effective January 1, 1961. Legislative leaders were given higher salaries. The Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate will receive \$16,500 annually, while the Vice Speaker, the Vice President, the floor leaders of the different political parties, and the Chairmen of the Committees on Finance of the House and Senate will receive \$100 a month more than other legislators.

The legislature approved a \$25 million bond issue for public improvements. In organizational action it created a Department of Commerce; authorized establishment of a commission for launching programs aimed at improving the living conditions of certain isolated rural communities; created an office of legal assistance for low income farmers; established a Farm Credit Corporation for the purpose of granting loans to farmers; and created a Manpower Development Administration to furnish work to the unemployed, especially in the field of agriculture.

Other enactments authorized a plebiscite on Puerto Rico's political status and provided for a referendum on amendments to the constitution. The compensation schedule for public school teachers was increased, and the right of teachers to participate in political campaigns was recognized.

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South Carolina -- South Carolina enacted a record \$175 million general fund budget at its regular 1960 session, which adjourned May 27. The amount was \$15 million over authorizations for the last fiscal year. Approximately \$9.5 million of the increase represents increases for teacher salaries. Tax relief measures included a restoration of deductions up to \$500 in federal income tax payments for computing income subject to state imposts, and provided for income tax exemptions of \$800 each for taxpayers and their dependents -- formerly \$1,000 per spouse and \$400 per dependent.

The legislature enacted a general pay increase for state employees averaging 6 per cent; raised the salary of legislators from \$1,000 to \$1,800 except for holdover Senators; and raised the salary of future Governors from \$15,000 to \$20,000. It voted salary increases from \$15,000 to \$19,000 for the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, from \$14,000 to \$18,000 for Associate Justices, from \$14,000 to \$15,500 for Circuit Justices, and increased the retirement pay maximum for judges to \$9,000.

Approved for referendum was a proposal authorizing the General Assembly to provide for prompt and temporary succession to all state and public offices and other necessary measures to assure continuity of government in event of enemy attack.

A new Department of Corrections was established, to be administered by a Director selected by and answerable to a seven-member board with overall responsibility. The board will be composed of the Governor and six gubernatorial appointees.

The legislature revised the schedule for state support of teacher pay to reflect experience, academic qualification, and performance on national teacher examinations, and raised pay support levels an average of 12 per cent. Other legislation established a committee of legislators and appointees of the Governor to explore possibilities for a scholarship loan system for needy college students.

A joint committee consisting of three members from each house of the legislature and three appointees of the Governor was established to provide continuing liaison concerning mental health problems and institutions. The legislature amended provisions of an uninsured motorists' fund, raising the maximum assessment on uninsured drivers to \$20 annually -- the proceeds to purchase coverage for the insured at no cost to them, thus assuring payment of all court-ordered damages over \$200 from accidents in which uninsured drivers are at fault. Other legislation established a special restricted driver license for 14-16-year-olds who have beginners' permits and have passed state driving tests.

A committee of three members from each house was established to cooperate with the Water Pollution Control Authority in establishing a water policy for the state and to encourage the proper development, use, conservation and protection of surface water.

The legislature established a Real Estate Board. It altered existing law concerning business development corporations to permit the participation of the Small Business Administration and also to allow the organization of such corporations on a county basis. Among other acts is one requiring each municipality to codify, index and bring up to date its ordinances on an annual basis.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS DIRECT LEGISLATION

Alaska -- Alaska voters at a primary election on August 9 defeated an initiative proposal to move the capital from its present site at Juneau. The proposal would have required location of the capitol in the "Cook Inlet-Railbelt" area -- the general vicinity of Anchorage.

Oklahoma -- Oklahoma voters approved two constitutional amendments at an election July 26. One permits an additional tax levy for cooperative county library purposes and for joint city-county libraries.

The other authorizes enactment of legislation creating a State Industrial Finance Authority to be composed of the State Treasurer and seven members appointed by the Governor. It would be authorized to issue Industrial finance bonds not to exceed \$10 million at any one time. The proceeds of the bond sale would be deposited in the State Treasury in a State Industrial Revolving Loan Fund, to be loaned to state incorporated industrial development agencies. The amendment specifies that after three years from the date of enactment of enabling legislation the legislature may raise the maximum amount of bonds permissible to \$20 million.

HIGHWAYS, TRAFFIC SAFETY

Turnpike Safety -- Medial barriers will be installed along the full length of the Pennsylvania Turnpike. Presently, such barriers exist along forty-seven miles of the turnpike. The Turnpike Commission has authorized the installation of barriers along an additional 100 miles immediately and has indicated that installation of barriers along

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the remaining 200 miles will take place as soon as possible. The decision to proceed was made after review of accident records on the segments now unprotected by the barriers.

New Michigan Traffic Laws -- Three significant changes in Michigan's traffic laws enacted by the 1960 legislature went into effect August 17. They affect drinking drivers, speeding drivers and suspended drivers. One legalizes chemical testing of blood as evidence of driving under the influence of alcohol. This makes Michigan the thirty-third state to legalize chemical tests of blood. Another enactment provides that drivers convicted of speeding will have points assessed against their records according to the severity of the offense. The third act provides that persons whose driving licenses have been suspended or revoked by the Secretary of State's office under the point system may petition through the Circuit Court for a stay of the suspension or revocation.

Driver License Agreement -- The motor vehicle departments of New Jersey and Pennsylvania have entered into a reciprocity agreement on driver license suspensions. Under the agreement the state in which the driving violation occurred will forward to the driver's home state a record of the moving violation conviction, and the home state will issue its suspension. The home state will send a copy of the suspension order to the state where the offense occurred, and follow it up with a copy of the restoration order when entered.

Ned J. Parsekian, Acting Director of the New Jersey Division of Motor Vehicles, reports that the agreement, in effect, puts motorists of each state on notice that his home state's motor vehicle laws and regulations will apply.

New Jersey recently concluded a license suspension and revocation agreement with Connecticut providing that both states will issue suspension or revocation orders to convicted motorists, effective on the same date and of identical duration. (See State Government News, June, 1960, page 6.)

HEALTH

Medical Committee Recommendations -- A Committee on Medical Care of the Maryland State Planning Commission has submitted a report recommending creation of a Department of Health and Hospitals. The agency would be administered by a Commissioner appointed by the Governor and nominated by a State Board of Health and Hospitals. Creation of the board was another recommendation. Its establishment would replace the present State Board of Health, the Mental Hygiene Board of Review and the Mental Hygiene Advisory Board.

The proposed department would be responsible for the operation of chronic disease, mental and tuberculosis hospitals; institutions for the mentally retarded; and medical, hospital and home care programs for public assistance recipients and others eligible for public medical care. It would also carry out all other functions currently the respective responsibilities of the Departments of Health and Mental Hygiene.

The recommended board, which would be responsible for setting policy, would consist of eleven members appointed by the Governor, including at least three but not more than five physicians, one of them a psychiatrist. No governmental official would be eligible for board membership.

Under the proposal a Commissioner of Mental Hygiene and a Commissioner of Health would administer the existing working organization under the direction of the commissioner of the department. The board would be empowered to create advisory councils. The report recommended initial establishment of advisory councils on medical care, preventive health, mental hygiene, dental health, and environmental hygiene.

Minnesota Health Committee -- Governor Orville L. Freeman of Minnesota has announced the appointment of a committee to evaluate health, hospital and medical services to Minnesota Indians. Appointed to the committee were Morris Hursh, Commissioner of Welfare; Dr. Robert N. Barr, Executive Officer, State Department of Health; Roger Jourdain, Chairman of the Red Lake Band; John Buchanaga, Chairman of the Consolidated Chippewa Tribe; Dr. Henry E. Allen, Chairman of the Indian Committee of the Governor's Human Rights Commission; and Louis Lerman, a member of the Indian Committee. The state group will be joined by a representative of the United States Public Health Service. The committee will make a complete survey of Indian health facilities in the state.

MENTAL HEALTH

Mental Health Training -- The Idaho State Board of Health has announced a cooperative program under which the state will receive the full-time services of two psychiatric trainees for two years in return for state help with their educational expenses for three years. Dr. Terrell O. Carver, Board of Health Director, outlined the program. Two physicians -- one currently residing in Utah and the other in Colorado -- will train in the psychiatric department of the University of Utah School of Medicine for the next two years and spend the following two years working full time in Idaho mental health institutions. In the fifth year the men will return to the university to complete their psychiatric education. Idaho will aid in providing the stipend which each will receive during the five-year period.

Additional Funds for Mental Health -- The Kentucky Department of Mental Health has received increased appropriations as a result of the state's new sales tax. The appropriation for the department was increased to \$21.5 million -- \$3 million over the past biennium. An additional \$3 million was allocated for construction of three buildings at Central State Hospital at Lakeland. Part of the additional funds will be used to improve the patients' diet. The daily per capita food allowance was raised 11 cents, to 62 cents.

In other action the department has inaugurated establishment of rehabilitation units at the state mental hospitals. The purpose is to prepare patients before discharge for a satisfactory adjustment to their families, jobs and communities. It is hoped that these units will curtail a rising readmission rate.

ATOMIC ENERGY

Atomic Energy Conferences -- A regional work conference on atomic energy was held in San Francisco on July 11. Purpose of the meeting was to inform the states of criteria being worked out by the Atomic Energy Commission to permit state control and regulation over specified peaceful applications of atomic energy. Like earlier meetings in Atlanta, Chicago and New York, the conference was sponsored jointly by the Council of State Governments and the Atomic Energy Commission.

The series of meetings was initiated after passage by Congress in 1959 of Public Law 86-373, amending the 1954 Atomic Energy Act along lines recommended by joint conferences of state and federal officials. The amendment provides that the AEC may conclude agreements with the separate states for the assumption of control and regulation over by-product materials, source materials and special nuclear materials in quantities less than a critical mass.

Most of the one-day work session was devoted to a point-by-point analysis of the proposed criteria for turning over regulatory responsibility to the states. Criticisms and suggestions raised by state officials will be evaluated by AEC officials in preparing the criteria in final form. The state and AEC officials in preparing the criteria also reviewed the background and legal basis for federal-state agreements on atomic energy matters, 'looked ahead at long-range plans for atomic energy development, and discussed the training and assistance to be made available to the states by the AEC.

Port Facility Survey -- The New York State Office of Atomic Development has announced details of a study of the capability of existing and potential port facilities in the state to handle the fueling and servicing of atomic propelled vessels and shipments

of used nuclear fuel. An engineering firm was selected to conduct the survey as part of the state's overall atomic development program authorized by the 1960 legislature. The survey is expected to be completed in November.

A report of the survey will include estimates for the periods 1960-65, 1966-70, and 1971-1975 of (1) the amount of used nuclear fuels and other radioactive materials requiring special handling that will be shipped to and through United States ports located on the east coast and along the St. Lawrence Seaway; and (2) the number, type and tonnage of atomic propelled maritime and naval vessels to be fueled, refueled and otherwise serviced at such ports.

In addition the survey will assist the state in determining necessary and desirable characteristics of port facilities for performing such services and in evaluating alternate methods of transporting shipments of radioactive materials from the port to inland destinations.

WATER RESOURCES

Water Study Committee -- Governor Paul Fannin of Arizona has named a nine-member committee to study the problem of allocating the state's share of Colorado River water as outlined in preliminary findings of a Special Master appointed by the United States Supreme Court. (See State Government News, June, 1960, page 5.)

The committee is also charged with the duty of recommending to the Governor and the legislature ways to handle the problem of allocating any additional Colorado River water that may be given the state in current litigation involving Colorado River water.

Water Pollution Committee -- A Utah inter-departmental Committee on Water Pollution recently held its first organizational meeting. The committee, appointed by Governor George D. Clyde, is composed of representatives of twelve state agencies concerned with water pollution. Its purpose is voluntary coordination among the agencies involved through a continual exchange of information on their respective roles and activities.

OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN

Part one of California Public Outdoor Recreation Plan was recently published by the State Division of Recreation, Department of Natural Resources. The report, prepared by a committee of departmental directors, presents a comprehensive plan for meeting statewide recreational needs of the public on an intergovernmental basis. Its coverage deals with all types of outdoor recreation, travel and sightseeing, picnicking, camping, riding, hiking, swimming, boating, fishing, hunting, and winter activities.

The committee was assisted by advisory units of more than 160 organized recreation groups and eighty-five agencies of all levels of government. The plan now awaits further consideration by the Governor and the legislature in determining policy for future actions to meet recreation needs.

The second part of the plan, now being readied for publication, will contain further data and supporting maps, charts, inventories and results of surveys in which nearly 500,000 people expressed their views on the state's recreation problems.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TOURISM

The University of Wyoming Division of Business and Economic Research has begun a survey of tourism in the state. Scheduled for completion about September 1, the study is financed by contributions of \$6,000 from the University, \$4,000 from the State Natural Resource Board and \$2,000 from the Wyoming Travel Commission. Most of the survey work has been done by graduate students at the University's College of Commerce. The students have gathered information on the number of people who visit the state, why they come, and how long and where they stay. Douglas Hutton, member of the Travel Commission, said the commissioners expect the study to prove useful to them in deciding how to spend money to promote the tourist industry.

NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK

Governors Ernest S. Vandiver of Georgia, Harold W. Handley, of Indiana, James T. Blair, Jr., of Missouri and Price Daniel of Texas have issued proclamations announcing October 2-8 as National Public Works Week. A number of other Governors have indicated their support of the observance and are expected to issue similar proclamations.

Observance of National Public Works Week is part of a public education program launched by the American Public Works Association in cooperation with Kiwanis International. Purpose of the program is to foster better understanding of the importance of public works in the community, to enhance the professional status of public works officials in government, and to help attract competent personnel to the field.

Part of the observance will be a selection of the "Top Ten Public Works Men-of-the-Year." The persons to be selected will be honored for work reflecting the highest standards of professional conduct for public works officials and whose achievements are noteworthy in relationship to the manpower and financial resources available.

The ability of government to attract and hold good men, the Association says, depends to a great extent upon the people's attitude toward their public servants.

NEW INSURANCE SCHEDULE

The Nevada Industrial Commission recently adopted a new schedule of insurance premiums for employers throughout the state. The action follows the findings of an independent actuarial study. The commission, in announcing the new schedule, reserved the right to revise the rates again on January 1, 1961, and agreed that future rates will be put into effect on a calendar rather than a fiscal year basis. The new rate schedule became effective August 1, 1960.

BUREAU ON CHARITY FRAUDS

A Bureau of Charity Frauds and Miscellaneous Compliance has been established in New York to handle increasing complaints concerning charity rackets. Such complaints previously were handled by a division of the Attorney General's office. The new bureau will be under the Department of Law and will be headed by Assistant Attorney General Jerome O. Glucksman. The bureau will also handle cases involving slum landlords and will undertake a more extensive drive against individuals who hide behind corporations to operate slum tenements.

BUDGET OFFICERS MEET

The Sixteenth Annual Meeting of the National Association of State Budget Officers was held July 6-9, in Salem, Oregon. More than 110 budget officials representing thirty-one states attended.

Topics discussed included public retirement systems, highway expenditures, higher education and public welfare. The association adopted a resolution urging the United States Bureau of Public Roads to speed up its accounting procedures to eliminate delay in reimbursing the states for the interstate highway program. The resolution also urged that Congress provide for payments to be made during the period of construction on projects on the interstate system to cover the federal share of the costs of the projects. This, the resolution pointed out, would insure that the federal government met its obligation on a current rather than a delayed basis. Another resolution directed the Executive Committee of the Association to consider means of organizing regional meetings of state budget agency personnel.

Robert L. Harkness, Assistant Director, California Department of Finance, was elected President of the Association, succeeding James G. Rennie, Director of the Maryland Department of Budget and Procurement. Other members of the Executive Committee include Edward J. Boling, Tennessee, Vice President; George A. Bell, Missouri; Richard Freer, Alaska; James G. Rennie, Maryland; Fred A. Schuckman, Connecticut; Con F. Shea, Colorado; John P. Stanley, Ohio; and Abram M. Vermeulen, New Jersey.

MIDWEST MEETING OF ATTORNEYS GENERAL

The Midwestern Regional Conference of Attorneys General met August 17-20 at Mackinac Island, Michigan. Attorney General Paul L. Adams of Michigan was host. Representatives from ten midwest states participated in discussions on such topics as legislative reapportionment and the problems it involves under the 1960 census, and the role of Attorneys General before the Appellate Court.

Justice Eugene F. Black of the Michigan Supreme Court addressed the participants at a general business session. Major General John W. Bowen, Assistant Chief of Staff for Reserve Components, U.S. Army, spoke at a State Dinner on the role of the reserve Components in National Security.

WESTERN REGIONAL MEETINGS

Agriculture -- The Western Interstate Committee on Agriculture of the Council of State Governments met jointly in San Francisco July 19 with the Western Association of State Departments of Agriculture. Representatives of the United States Department of Agriculture also joined in the discussions.

Participants discussed the progress of three federal-state programs -- brucellosis suppression, the matched funds marketing program, and the control of chemical residues in food products. Regarding the latter, the western group of state legislators and agricultural administrators approved a resolution adopted in June by the Council's Midwestern Committee on Agriculture. It asks Congress to approve funds for an intensive program of research and for development of guides on chemical residues. It also calls for revision of food and drug regulations to provide that no substance which can induce cancer following injection in man or animal may be employed in foods or appear in food above a safe level of use, as established by research and thorough evaluation by a properly qualified board of experts.

Public Lands -- The Western Interstate Committee on Public Lands of the Council of State Governments met in San Francisco July 20. It considered the problem of legislative jurisdiction over federal lands, payments in lieu of taxes on federal property to states and localities, cancellation of United States Forest Service special use permits, and conflicts in state and federal land ownership. Representatives of the National Association of County Officials and of the U. S. Forest Service participated in the discussions.

The Public Lands Committee reiterated its pledge to work with city and county officials and the Western States Land Com-

missioners Association for federal legislation providing a beginning system of payments in lieu of taxes. The committee also voted to expand its membership -- originally limited to two legislators from each of the thirteen western states -- to include as ex officio members the officers and Chairman of the Legislative Committee of the Western States Land Commissioners Association.

MIDWESTERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE

More than 140 legislators and state administrative officials from twelve states attended the Midwestern Regional Conference of the Council of State Governments July 27-30, at Mackinac Island, Michigan. Host for the meeting was the Michigan Commission on Interstate Cooperation.

The budgetary process, the federal highway program and highway safety were among topics discussed by the participants. In a series of simultaneous discussion sessions, legislators, administrative officials and guests addressed groups of conference delegates on problems in agriculture, higher education and interstate compacts.

Governor G. Mennen Williams of Michigan spoke at a State Dinner on federal aid to education.

The conference adopted a resolution opposing federal interference with established interstate compact agencies and urged the United States House of Representatives to refrain from taking the drastic step of citing state officials for contempt of Congress. The conference memorialized Congress and the Interstate Commerce Commission to enact legislation and adopt rule changes which would inhibit the transfer of federal trucking authority franchises without satisfaction of tax obligations due the several states. In other resolutions the conference continued its Agriculture Committee, established a Rules Committee, and urged the states to join with Ohio in planning and promoting recognition of the Sesquicentennial of the War of 1812.

LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

Electric Roll Call -- A special committee of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives has authorized installation of two electric roll call machines. They will be mounted on each side of the House chamber so that the device will be visible from any point. The system, to be installed by December 1, is being obtained under a rental contract. Cost of installation is expected to approximate \$60,000, and operation and maintenance costs will run \$10,000 per year. Roll calls in the House, which now take twelve to fifteen minutes, will require only eight seconds with the new machines.

Legislative Agency Services -- The Council of State Governments recently has published

two reports on services by legislative service agencies.

Legislative Reference Bureaus and Library Services deals with independent legislative reference bureaus and the legislative reference services provided by state libraries where this service has been given separate organizational recognition. It describes the organization and staffing of these agencies, and presents information on titles, financing, compensation and duties of the staffs, and the number employed. The report (RM-339) is available from the Council at \$1.50.

The second report is Legal Services for State Legislatures. It deals with types of legal services provided for legislatures and describes the agencies which are primarily responsible for providing them. It reviews in some detail statutory revision and publication programs, bill drafting, and legal counseling services. Also presented are data on the organization and staffing of the agencies which are primarily responsible for providing legal services. Information is included on titles, compensation and duties of the staffs of these agencies and on the number employed. The appropriations received by the agencies for carrying out their programs are indicated. This publication (RM-340) is priced at \$2.00.

The two reports are part of a series on permanent legislative service agencies in the states. The first, Legislative Councils, Organization, Staff and Appropriations (RM-328), published in 1959, is available at \$1.00. All three reports can be ordered from the Council of State Governments, 1313 East 60th Street, Chicago 37, Illinois.

ADMINISTRATIVE REORGANIZATION

Reorganization Plan -- The Massachusetts Commissioner of Administration has submitted to the Governor and legislature a report outlining the reorganization of agencies and functions of the state government's executive branch. The report, prepared at the direction of the legislature, includes implementing legislation.

The proposed legislation would authorize the Governor to undertake examinations of the executive branch for the purposes of improving inter-agency and intra-agency coordination and facilitating consolidations of agencies and functions. It sets forth specific purposes and standards which the Governor would follow to accomplish a reorganization plan. The legislation would provide that the Governor transmit any proposed plan to the legislature. The plan would take effect at the end of sixty days from the date of transmittal unless during that period either the Senate or the House of Representatives passed a resolution opposing it.

Neither the resolution nor the reorganization plan would be subject to amendment. The Governor's authority to prepare and transmit reorganization plans would, if

adopted, become effective the day after the inauguration of a Governor in 1961 and would expire approximately ten years later.

Reorganization Committee Appointed -- Governor J. Lindsay Almond, Jr., of Virginia has appointed a nineteen-member Commission to Study the State Government. The commission is composed of legislators and business and industrial leaders. L. M. Kuhn, Director of the Division of the Budget, is an ex officio member.

The Governor has recommended that the study be divided into two phases. The first would review the general organization of the state government for the purpose of determining possible duplication of functions and services. It would be confined to the state agencies financed out of the general fund. Phase two would be a study of personnel involved in the operations of state agencies and would be concerned with agencies financed by special revenue.

The Governor suggested that commission recommendations be limited to changes that could be effected by executive order or legislative enactment. The commission's report will be submitted by August, 1961.

STATE ADMINISTRATORS DAY

A one-day program for top Oregon administrators and executive personnel of all state departments was held recently at the State Capitol in Salem.

The program -- State Administrators Day -- was sponsored by the Department of Justice and the Assistant Attorneys General who serve all state departments, boards and commissions. The Assistant Attorneys General in 1953 formed a voluntary organization called the Department of Justice Bar Association. Since its inception the organization has carried on a variety of legal education programs designed to improve the professional skill and competence of its members in all branches of public law.

Purpose of the recent meeting was to acquaint administrators with a broad range of matters relating to transaction of the state's legal business and to encourage an exchange of ideas between the administrators and the state attorneys. The program dealt with administrative law, legal aspects of civil service hearings, and lawsuits against administrators and agencies.

Attorney General Robert Y. Thornton of Oregon addressed the participants at the opening session and Attorney General John J. O'Connell of Washington spoke at a luncheon meeting.

PERSONNEL

State Employee Training Program -- Massachusetts has announced the establishment of an in-service training program for state employees who wish to qualify for a de-

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8

gree of Associate in Engineering. The purpose is to alleviate a shortage of engineers in various state departments.

Under the program, state employees presently engaged in some form of engineering work for the state may enroll in engineering courses to be offered at evening extension centers throughout the state by Lowell Technological Institute. The state will pay the cost of tuition and books. As many as 1,200 employees are expected to enroll during the first year, and the Governor has requested an appropriation of \$120,000 to finance the first year's program.

Committee to Study State Salaries -- At the direction of Governor Gaylord A. Nelson, the Wisconsin Bureau of Management in the Department of Administration has appointed a committee to work on a special study of state salary policies and procedures. It comprises representatives of employee organizations, the State Employment Service, department heads and departmental personnel officers.

The study will cover classification and pay policy, with respect to their internal equity; the state's merit increase program; its escalator cost-of-living bonus; and longevity pay. The state's present salary practices will be checked against common practices in private employment and other selected governmental units.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Florida Survey -- A Subcommittee on Local Government of the Florida Legislative Council's Governmental Organization Committee has undertaken a study of governmental powers and services provided by counties, municipalities and special districts. The study is intended to aid local officials in identifying and solving organizational problems and to reduce the legislature's burden of local laws.

Community Planning Services -- Minnesota has begun work on a plan to expand the community planning services of the State Department of Business Development. Increased services will be available to county and municipal planning agencies affected by interstate and state trunk highway construction.

An interdepartmental agreement enables the State Highway Department to contract for community planning aid through the business development department's community planning adviser. Objectives include determination of trouble spots in state road building which local planning efforts could remedy; research on land-use planning experiences of other states; preparation of a guidebook on local planning powers; and creation of sample codes and ordinances for use of county and municipal officials.

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